

PRESS RELEASE

From the Bi-State Elected Officials United to Preserve the Gap—elected representatives in 14 Townships in New Jersey and Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mayor Adele Starrs, Knowlton, NJ
(908) 496-0055

adelestarrs@gmail.com

CONTACT: Mayor Kevin Duffy, Hardwick, NJ
(908) 625-7450

Kduffy17@gmail.com

CONTACT: Mayor Lance Prator, Portland, PA
(570) 856-7368

mrlance66@Yahoo.com

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14 TOWNS IN PA AND NJ BAND TOGETHER IN RESPONSE TO NJDOT's "PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP" WHICH BANS PUBLIC OFFICIALS – PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

The NJDOT plans to build a series of walls and industrial fences through the Delaware Water Gap in front of the 14th most visited National Park in the United States, to protect motorists from potential rockfalls. They cite 9 incidents of rockfall events between the years of 2001 and 2016, including one fatality.

The section of Route 80 where the project will be built sees approximately 70 car accidents per year, and several documented fatalities, not related to rockfall. It has an accident rate almost twice the state average. The project will not address the road conditions causing those accidents.

Since unveiling the project's design in 2017, the project has garnered opposition from more than twenty area towns and prominent groups including the NJ Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, the NJ League of Municipalities, multiple Native American tribes, and thousands of citizens across the United States.

Elected officials have requested to sit down with the NJDOT to find solutions that could improve the safety of the traveling public and be mutually agreeable. The NJDOT has not accepted those requests and has instead formed a "public advisory group" in which members are asked to "share information about the project...their constituents" and "share with the Project Team what local networks NJDOT should use to establish and maintain a productive dialogue with the local communities."

Elected officials are barred from attending or participating in these "public advisory groups."

As a result, elected officials in 14 local towns have formed a coalition known as the Bi-State Elected Officials United to Preserve the Gap.

JOIN US WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 at 6:00 PM AT UPPER MOUNT BETHEL COMMUNITY PARK located at 1535 Potomac Street, Mount Bethel, PA. 18343 to learn how this 5-year, \$64 million project will impact the livelihoods and quality of life for NJ and PA residents.